







# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# SELECTMEN,

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,

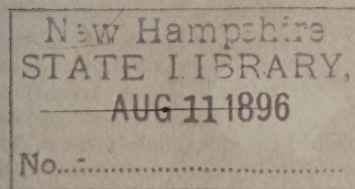
AND THE

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF HUDSON,

FOR THE YEAR 1865-6.



LOWELL, MASS:

STONE & HUSE, PRINTERS, COURIER OFFICE, NO. 21 CENTRAL STREET.  
1866.



# REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

STATE OF TREASURY, FEBRUARY 27, 1865.

Outstanding taxes on Thomas Hill's list, 1864,...	\$1,061 96	
C. Richardson's " 1860-1-2,	5 65	
		\$1,067 61
Due the Treasury,.....		115 12
Actual state of the Treasury,.....		\$952 49

ALDEN HILL, } *Selectmen of*  
BENJAMIN A. MERRILL, } *Hudson.*

## RECEIPTS.

February 27, 1865—whole amount as per above,.....	\$	952 49
Town, School, State and County tax,.....		8,443 74
State—State aid money,.....		2,236 75
Note and interest,.....		1,627 33
Savings Bank tax,.....		248 35
Railroad tax,.....		174 02
1864,.....		22 22
County of Hillsborough, support of paupers,.....		8 00
Richard R. Strong, (Town's money),.....		200 00
State aid Committee,.....		100 00
Borrowed money,.....		1,830 49
Total amount of Receipts,.....	\$	15,843 39

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Bills paid for 1864-5—

Thomas Hill, abatement of taxes,.....	\$	94 39
Caleb Richardson, for collecting taxes for 1862,.....		25 00
Eli Hamblet, relief of Thomas Smith,.....		2 00
N. H. Telegraph, printing Town Reports,.....		33 00
Hiram Marsh, for services and cash, as State aid Committee,		17 83
Interest on Sarah R. Clement's note,.....		40 00
Timothy S. Ford, damage to sheep by dogs,.....		5 00
Franklin Wilson, " " " " " .....		5 50
George W. Marshall, " " " " " .....		11 00
Benjamin Howe, services as Superintend'g School Committee,		40 00
James Carnes, fixing guide boards,.....		1 50



Robert A. Andrews, for breaking roads,.....	\$ 19 86
Sargent & Cross, plank for highway,.....	22 80
Verder & Co., goods for Alms House,.....	62 25
Charles E. Senter, labor on highway,.....	10 50
James L. Pierce, side lamp in Town House,.....	21 00
J. F. Twiss, breaking roads,.....	3 77
Dr. D. O. Smith, medical attendance on Town's poor for the year ending April 1, 1865,.....	20 00
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	\$435 40

## Bills paid for 1865-6—

David Clement, Jr., note and interest,.....	\$ 303 85
Insane Asylum, for Thomas Foote and Sally Hadley,.....	186 48
Jacob Davis, interest on D. T. Davis' note,.....	57 45
Austin B. Merrill, note and interest,.....	830 13
George E. Hill, " " " .....	172 55
City Savings Bank, interest,.....	259 82
Samuel A. Greeley, part of note and interest.....	83 25
E. P. Emerson, insuring T. F. Bridge,.....	37 50
Hannah Hadley, interest on note,.....	6 06
First National Bank, note and interest,.....	734 00
Levi E. Cross, note and interest,.....	632 00
Mary J. Marsh, interest on note,.....	60 00
John W. Fletcher, part of note and interest,.....	257 88
Richard R. Strong (Town's money deposited),.....	200 00
James M. Greeley, interest on note,.....	48 00
Emery Burnham, repairing highway,.....	25 00
James Emery, medical attendance in small pox case of Fred. Hickox, .....	30 00
Thompson Paine, interest on note,.....	48 00
Samuel E. Merrill, support of his son,.....	44 00
Gilman Andrews, interest on note,.....	85 63
Richard R. Strong, on account of salary,.....	50 00
Samuel Walker, part of note and interest,.....	354 00
Verder & Co., goods for Alms House,.....	125 00
Horace J. Hamblett, interest on note,.....	48 00
John Chase, damage sustained on highway,.....	5 00
Sybil M. Grant, interest on note,.....	60 00
Hiram Marsh, (it being part of money deposited by State aid Committee,.....	30 00
Osgood Hill, part of interest on A. Campbell's note,.....	30 74
C. B. & J. O. Marshall, goods for F. Hickox, in small pox case, J. M. Bean, plank for highway,.....	28 10 7 83
James McCoy, interest on note,.....	48 00
Clarissa G. Putman, " " .....	30 00
William D. Miller, " " .....	9 00
E. W. Upham, " " .....	183 09
James S. Blodgett, " " .....	54 00
Daniel T. Gage, note and interest,.....	196 77

F. J. Fuller, interest on note,.....	48 00
James Pierce, " " " .....	156 00
Dorcas Kelly, " " " .....	18 00
Silas Hills, expenses in F. Hickox's small pox case,.....	12 86
C. F. Stetson, goods for Alms House,.....	64 34
Henry Smith, relief for Thomas Smith,.....	16 58
G. W. Hills, goods for Alms House,.....	4 65
Elias Burns, labor on bridle road,.....	5 00
Elijah Tinker, interest on note,.....	6 00
R. H. Tinker, " " " .....	18 00
Luther Pollard, " " " .....	60 00
Hiram Marsh, for cash paid and services as State aid Com'ttee,	17 00
S. D. Greeley, cash paid for Town,.....	24 98
Sophia Doyle, relief of James Doyle,.....	36 00
Daniel Marshall, note and interest,.....	456 10
S. D. Greeley, for services on the State aid Committee during the Rebellion,.....	20 00
Eli Hamblet, services as Treasurer and recording taxes,....	15 00
S. D. Greeley, relief of Thomas Smith,.....	5 53
Eli Hamblet, interest on note,.....	24 72
D. O. Smith, over-assessment of taxes, 1865,.....	9 00
Daniel W. Clement, note and interest,.....	1,170 00
A. J. Farley, damage on highway,.....	1 50
Thomas Hill, legal advice and printing tax bills,.....	3 00
City Savings Bank,.....	700 00
Benjamin Chase, carrying Hannah Hadley to County Farm,.	3 00
D. O. Smith, interest on note,.....	142 14
Thomas Hill, highway receipts,.....	65 46
John Cummings, interest on note,.....	33 62
G. W. Hills, oil and wicking for T. F. Bridge,.....	28 10
Benjamin Howe, Superintending School Committee,.....	40 00
J. K. Wheeler, cash paid for Town, and labor and lumber for T. F. Bridge,.....	11 96
J. K. Wheeler, public watering trough,.....	3 00
S. D. Greeley, services as Selectman and Overseer of Poor,..	50 00
B. F. Chase, " " " " " " " " ..	39 00
J. K. Wheeler, " " " " " " " " ..	38 00
James Emery, administrator of J. Dudley, for lighting T. F. Bridge, .....	2 00
Thomas Hill, abatement of taxes,.....	94 39
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\$8,735 89	

## DISTRICT SCHOOL MONEY PAID.

District No. 1, Alden Barron,.....	\$78 55
2, William Melvin,.....	78 55
3, Samuel Walker,.....	77 81
4, Addison Heald,.....	84 50
5, Reuben P. Smith,.....	78 55
6, Charles W. Spaulding,.....	78 55



District No. 7, Lucius F. Robinson,.....	61 00	
8, Talford Melvin,.....	69 50	
9, I. E. Greeley,.....	72 81	
10, Abijah Hill,.....	77 81	
	<hr/>	757 63
State tax,.....	\$2,707 50	
County tax,.....	645 15	
	<hr/>	3,352 65
Total amount of disbursements,.....	\$ 13,281 57	
Total amount of receipts,.....	15,843 39	
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Balance in favor of the Town,.....	\$ 2,561 82	

We have examined the Treasurer's accounts from February 27, 1865, to February 27, 1866, and find them well vouched and correctly cast.

#### STATE OF THE TREASURY, FEBRUARY 27, 1866.

Outstanding taxes, Thomas Hill's list, 1864,.....	\$ 5 30
1865,.....	1,619 48
Cash in Treasury,.....	937 14
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Actual state of the Treasury,.....	\$ 2,561 92

S. D. GREELEY,	} <i>Selectmen</i> <i>of</i> <i>Hudson.</i>
B. F. CHASE,	
J. K. WHEELER,	

The Town is owing the following bills and notes:

John Gillis, snowing T. F. Bridge, 1864-5,.....	\$ 10 00
James Carnes, lighting T. F. Bridge,.....	26 87
Verder & Co., goods for Alms House,.....	35 00
Richard R. Strong, balance of salary, at Alms House, due April 1, 1866,.....	165 00
Jacob Davis, note and interest,.....	1,050 00
John Burnham, two notes and interest,.....	943 40
Samuel Morrison, note and interest,.....	228 00
John Cummings, " " " .....	354 00
D. O. Smith, " " " .....	1,178 00
E. W. Upham, " " " .....	3,075 00
Gilman Andrews, " " " .....	1,537 00
Enoch S. Marsh, " " " .....	412 00
Sarah Robbins, " " " .....	1,135 00
Luther Pollard, " " " .....	1,010 00
W. Tuttle, " " " .....	1,135 00
Sarah R. Clement, " " " .....	1,550 00
Sybil M. Grant, " " " .....	1,038 00
Eli Hamblet, " " " .....	219 00



Daniel T. Gage, note and interest,.....	\$ 210 00
Hiram Marsh, " " " .....	330 00
Frank M. Winn, " " " .....	109 00
J. Pierce, " " " .....	2,677 00
W. O. Winn, " " " .....	870 00
H. J. Hamblet, " " " .....	821 60
J. M. Corliss, " " " .....	821 60
James M. Greeley, " " " .....	821 60
James McCoy, " " " .....	821 60
Samuel Walker, " " " .....	510 00
Albert Campbell, " " " .....	840 00
Frank J. Fuller, " " " .....	821 60
James S. Blodgett, " " " .....	924 30
Cyrus Cross, " " " .....	433 00
W. D. Miller, " " " .....	151 50
Elijah Tinker, " " " .....	403 60
Clarissa G. Putman, " " " .....	504 50
Dorcas A. Kelly, " " " .....	301 75
Thomas Senter, Jr., " " " (not reported last year),	950 00
Richard R. Strong, " " " .....	216 00
E. Nichols, " " " .....	611 00
George Cutler, " " " .....	414 00
Rebecca Tinker, " " " .....	177 00
W. H. Cross, " " " .....	675 00
J. Greeley, " " " .....	641 00
H. C. March, " " " .....	201 00
Tamer Hamblet, " " " .....	243 00
Eliza A. Warren, " " " .....	410 00
Abigail Smith, " " " .....	220 00
Amos Winn, " " " .....	500 00
Joseph Blodgett, " " " .....	422 00
Jesse Woodward, " " " .....	211 00
Sarah Blodgett, " " " .....	209 00
Betsey Baldwin, " " " .....	209 00
City Savings Bank, due August 1, 1866,.....	7,000 00

Whole amount of liabilities,.....\$ 40,782 92

Due from the State—State aid, (money paid),.....\$575 00

City Nashua, for lighting half T. F. Bridge, 27 48

County of Hillsborough,..... 3 00

605 48

Total indebtedness of the Town,.....\$ 40,177 44

Cash in Treasury,.....\$ 937 14

Outstanding taxes,..... 1,624 78

\$2,561 92

Total indebtedness over means.....\$37,615 52

S. D. GREELEY, } *Selectmen*  
 B. F. CHASE, } *of*  
 J. K. WHEELER, } *Hudson.*

# REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

## EXPENDITURES AT THE ALMS HOUSE.

Verder & Co., goods for Alms House,.....	\$ 187 25
Stetson, dry goods   "   "   "   .....	64 34
G. W. Hills,   "   "   "   "   .....	4 65
D. O. Smith, medical attendance,.....	20 00
Superintendent's salary,.....	215 00
Bills paid by Superintendent,.....	473 86
Total amount of expenditures,.....	\$ 965 10

## RECEIPTS AT ALMS HOUSE.

Cr. by Superintendent (book account),.....	\$461 45
Due for labor,.....	38 25
Total receipts,.....	\$ 499 70
Total balance against Alms House,.....	\$ 465 40

## EXPENSES OF POOR OFF THE FARM.

Insane Asylum, for Thomas Foote and Sally Hadley, \$186 48	
Relief of Thomas Smith,.....	22 11
Josiah K. Merrill,.....	44 00
James Doyle.....	36 00
Total expenditures off the farm,.....	\$ 288 59
Total expenses of Town's poor,.....	\$ 753 99

The number of inmates at the Alms House is seven, which has been the average number the past year. We have agreed with Mr. Strong and wife for another year, for \$225.00. Thomas Foote and Sally Hadley have been removed from the Insane Asylum, to the farm.

S. D. GREELEY, } Overseers  
 B. F. CHASE,    } of  
 J. K. WHEELER, } the Poor.



## INVOICE AT THE ALMS HOUSE,

AS TAKEN FEB. 16, 1866.

Four oxen, \$525; six cows, 280.....	\$ 805 00
Three two-years old cattle, 75; five yearlings, 75.....	150 00
Four shoats, 87.50; eighteen hens, 10; two turkeys, 4.....	101 50
Eleven tons English hay, 165; two and a half tons run hay, 25	190 00
Two tons meadow hay, 14; straw and corn fodder, 30.....	44 00
Six bush. white beans, 15; two bush. colored do., 3.....	18 00
Four bush. peas, 8; eighty bush. corn, 85.....	93 00
Eight bush. barley, 8.25; twenty bush. rye, 25.....	33 25
Forty-five bush. oats, 25.....	25 00
Four shovels, 2; four manure forks, 1; two crow bars, 3.....	6 00
Four pitch forks, 1; four rakes, 1; ten ox yokes, 20.....	22 00
Three draft chains, 3; three stake do. and whiffletree do., 1.50	4 50
One traverse sled, 50; five plows, 20; two ox carts, 60.....	130 00
Ox wagon body and forward wheels.....	30 00
Six hoes and bog hoe, 3; two cultivators, 4.....	7 00
Two harrows, 10; eight axes, 4; two iron wedges, .75.....	14 75
Five scythes and snaths, 6; one horse rake, 3; drag rake, .50	9 50
Three bush scythes, 1.50; winnowing mill, 3; hay cutter, 3.	7 50
Grindstone, 1.50; stone drag 3; wheelbarrow, 2.....	6 50
Carpenter's tools, 2.75; three ladders, 1.50; set dry meas- ures, .75.....	5 00
Ten meal bags, 3; two ox muzzles, .40; thirteen lbs. shoe plate, 1.50.....	4 90
Two wood saws, 1; six baskets, 2.....	3 00
One horse wagon, 45; sleigh, 30; harness, 4.....	79 00
Buffalo robe and bells, 4; oak and pine lumber, 4.....	8 00
One M shingles.....	4 00
Seventy lbs. butter, 30; one hundred and twenty-five bushels potatoes, 90; twelve bushels turnips, 2.....	122 00
Four hundred and seventy-five lbs. pork, 95; two hundred lbs. ham, 33; two hundred lbs. salt beef; 25.....	153 00
One hundred and fifty lbs. fresh meat, 20; two bbls. vinegar, 20	40 00
Three-fourths bush. onions, .75; nine cider casks, 9.....	9 75
Nine galls. boiled cider, 4.50; forty galls. soap, 7.....	11 50
Thirty lbs. sausage meat, 6; thirty lbs. tallow, 3.....	9 00
Thirty lbs. candles, 5; seventy-five lbs. lard, 15; flour, 12.50	32 50
Sixteen lbs. buckwheat flour, .80; ten lbs. dried apple, 1.50	2 30
One-half bushel cranberries.....	1 25
Whole amount.....	\$2,173 00

# REPORT

## OF THE

### SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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The Superintending School Committee begs leave to present the following report:

#### DISTRICT NO. 1.

The Summer Term was taught by Miss ABBIE J. MARSHALL, a lady of good moral and intellectual qualifications, and of considerable experience in teaching. Miss M. entered upon her duties with an earnest mind and a cheerful disposition, and labored with great fidelity for the good of her pupils. Nevertheless, she did not succeed to her own satisfaction. She failed to awaken in the minds of her pupils a desire for knowledge, and a laudable ambition to acquire it. In her report, she says, "I have tried almost every means to stimulate them to exertion, but mostly without effect." Miss M. has reference especially to the younger portion of the school. It is believed, however, that a general satisfaction was felt in the District with the labors of Miss M. The examination at the close indicated very considerable progress in the various branches of study. The government of the school was imperfect.

The Winter Term was under the instruction of Mr. JAMES MOORE, of Nashua—a gentleman of large experience in teaching, and of ample qualifications.

Mr. Moore is an active, energetic teacher, and a good disciplinarian. He succeeded in a good degree in awakening reflection in the minds of his pupils—an indispensable pre-requisite to real advancement in knowledge. His teaching was of a more practical nature than simply to propound questions from a text book and listen to the answers given therein. It was obvious at the closing examination that there had been, during the term, a good degree of studiousness and very commendable improvement by a very large proportion of the pupils. The exercises were of an interesting character, indicating clear, thorough, intelligent, practical instruction.



## DISTRICT NO. 2.

The Summer Term was under the instruction of Miss C. A. HARDY. Miss H. is young and inexperienced as a teacher, this being her first effort. She is a lady of good natural and acquired abilities, and of a very amiable disposition, well calculated to win the esteem and affections of those committed to her care. In the discharge of her duties as a teacher, however, she was somewhat deficient in energy and vivacity. As a natural consequence, there was a lack of sprightliness and activity on the part of her pupils. The majority of our children are dull and sluggish in regard to their studies, and it requires the greatest activity and earnestness on the part of the teacher to awaken their slumbering energies, and to incite them to exertion. The government of Miss H. was fair, but not perfect. The exercises on the day of examination indicated considerable proficiency in the several branches of study, but more would have been accomplished if the dormant energies of some of the pupils had been more thoroughly aroused. One very serious fault in this school was, indistinct utterance. Many of the pupils, on the day of examination, could not be heard.

The Winter Term was taught by Miss L. JENNIE GOULD, of Tyngsboro', Mass. Miss G. is a lady of fine natural abilities, a well cultivated mind, of great energy and force of character. As a disciplinarian she holds a high rank. The school, under her guiding hand, was held in the most complete subjection; and under her faithful, persevering, and energetic efforts, it was awakened, in some good degree, at least, to a realization of the importance of study. The exercises, on the day of examination, showed very commendable improvement, and must have given universal satisfaction. In reading, especially, great progress was made.

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DISTRICT NO. 3.

The Summer Term of this little school was under the instruction of Miss BELL WALKER, of Westford, Mass. Miss Walker is a thoroughly educated and experienced teacher, endowed with more than an ordinary share of vivacity and tact for governing. The prosperity and success of the school under her management was very apparent. The closing examination showed great improvement, and gave general satisfaction to those present on the occasion.

The Winter Term was taught by Miss ANN L. SNOW, of Westford, Mass. Miss Snow is an experienced teacher, and of ample intellectual

qualifications to give instruction in all those branches taught in our common schools. But Miss S., with all her experience as a teacher and intellectual culture, lacked that most essential and indispensable qualification to success—ability to govern well. The authority of the teacher must be respected, or the school under her charge will, to a great extent, prove a failure.

That Miss S. labored with diligence to control and instruct her school, the Committee has no reason to doubt; and he would, in no wise, be understood as attributing to her any intentional delinquency. But still her school was not properly governed, and consequently the improvement of the pupils was far short of what it should have been. The closing examination was quite unsatisfactory to the Committee and also to others.

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#### DISTRICT NO. 4.

The Summer Term of this school was taught by Miss L. JENNIE GOULD, of Tyngsborough, Mass. This school has long had the unenviable reputation of being difficult to manage. But the complete success of Miss G. shows that the school can be governed, and governed without a resort to any severe measures. Her register shows that corporal punishment was not inflicted in a single instance, and yet the order of the school was complete. The Prudential Committee remarked at the examination, that if Miss G. had done nothing more than subject the school to order she would have been worthy of much credit. But she did much more than this. Her success in teaching was equal to her success in governing. While she held her pupils under a firm and steady rule, she won their high esteem, and aroused them to commendable exertion. A general approbation was expressed by those who attended the examination; and it is believed that a general approbation was felt throughout the district. The moral and religious precepts cited by the pupils at the close of the examination were of a highly interesting character. Would it not be wise and judicious and of great practical utility to our children to mingle more of the moral and religious element with their intellectual culture? Does not wisdom point us to the old paths—the example of our fathers as a juster and truer policy than our own?

The Winter Term was under the charge of Miss E. H. HERSEY, of Merrimac—a lady of superior intellectual qualifications, and of large experience in teaching. Miss H. entered upon her duties with a firm resolution to do her best, and with high expectations of success; and we



most cheerfully concede to her the honor of having done well—nay, of having done her best, and of having given a general satisfaction. But the Committee, while he cheerfully concedes all this, must not overlook the fact that the school was not held in such subjection as it should have been. That school is not properly governed which requires a large share of the teacher's attention to keep it in subjection. When a teacher cannot sit down in quietness and hear a recitation, without being disturbed by unnecessary noise, we cannot rid ourselves of the conviction that there is a radical defect in the government of the school. Nor is it to be supposed that the progress of such a school could be what it should be. The principles of government should be firmly established, and clearly and fully understood by the pupils at the outset. This being done, the teacher is relieved of a great and constant burden, and can devote her time more exclusively to the progress of her school in knowledge. Where a large portion of the teacher's time is occupied in keeping her school in subjection, it is apparent that the interests of the school must suffer.

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#### DISTRICT NO. 5.

This school was under the care and instruction of Miss L. A. BURTT, of Pelham, during both terms. The progress made in this school during the year was very fair, and creditable to the pupils and teacher. Miss Burt is quite young and inexperienced, this being her first charge as an instructor. She possesses some very great excellencies as a teacher, and some very great faults. She is a lady of firm resolution, of great energy and capacity of mind. She marshaled her classes with as much authority and precision as did the immortal Wellington his troops, at the battle of Waterloo. They were required to stand square up to the line. Hence her pupils had their eyes and ears open and knew exactly where they were and what was expected of them. To dreamy idleness she granted no indulgence. But Miss Burt's faults were too apparent to be passed over in silence. She was quite too noisy; she spoke on too high a key, and with an unnatural voice, and with too great rapidity, not allowing the pupil sufficient time to answer her question before propounding another, and thus distracting and confusing the mind. She forced her pupils over too much ground to be thorough, and confined herself too closely to the text book.

It is to be deeply regretted that Miss B., in the government of her school, should have departed from the most rigid rules of propriety, in

the use of language. Low, slang phrases should never pollute the lips of an instructor of youth. Should she engage in teaching again (which we hope she will), we trust she will not so far forget herself as to deviate from the most perfect rules of decorum in addressing her pupils.

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#### DISTRICT NO. 6.

Both Terms of this school were taught by Miss S. M. SMITH, of Pelham. This school has greatly improved since the Committee's first acquaintance with it, two years ago. From being one of the most unpromising, it has become a most deeply interesting little school. Miss Smith is young, inexperienced, but of good mental qualifications, amiable in disposition and attractive in manners. She gained the high esteem and affection of her pupils, and consequently controlled them with ease, holding them in willing subjection to that which is just and right. Miss S. was somewhat deficient in sprightliness and vivacity in the school-room. Nevertheless, she succeeded in stimulating her pupils to a good degree of activity in study, and good progress was made in the several branches to which attention was given. The exercises at the close of each term were highly interesting and satisfactory.

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#### DISTRICT NO. 7.

This is one of our largest schools, there being but one in town that numbers more than this; and it is not only increasing in numbers, but in interest and importance. It contains more young men than any other of our schools, except No. 1; and are these young men to complete their education in a few short years with only six weeks' schooling annually? This ought not so to be. It is to be most earnestly desired that parents and guardians in this district will enlarge their hearts and open their hands wide and give of their substance with an unstinted liberality to extend their school term for a few years to come. The highest interests of the school imperiously demand such an outlay.

The Summer Term of this school was taught by Miss R. S. HAMBLET. The Committee, on visiting this school at its commencement, was highly gratified with the quiet and orderly conduct of the pupils, and also with their studiousness and interesting recitations.



The Committee not having been informed of the closing examination, was not present. This he regrets more deeply because he felt it to be his duty to make some animadversions on the government of Miss Hamblet's school last year. He is persuaded, however, from what he saw of the school, and from information derived from other sources, that the term was a successful one, and that general satisfaction was given.

The Winter Term was taught by Miss L. D. BOWERS, of Merrimac. Miss B. held her school in good subjection and urged her pupils forward in their studies with an earnestness and a zeal worthy of commendation. As good proficiency was made in the short term of six weeks as could have been reasonably expected. At the closing examination, the pupils were orderly, respectful to their teacher, and showed a familiarity with their studies which did them much credit.

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#### DISTRICT NO. 8.

The Summer Term was under the instruction of Miss M. H. STETSON—an amiable lady, and possessing a well cultivated mind. Miss H. entered upon her duties with a cheerful heart and with an earnest desire to benefit her pupils. The school opened with a large number of scholars, and with encouraging prospects of a successful term. But contagious diseases leaking out in the district, caused a suspension of the school for a season, and, indeed, only a fractional part of the school were collected afterwards, so that the school closed with less than half of the number that it contained at the commencement of the term. The school appeared as well at the closing examination as could have been expected under the circumstances. The government of the school, however, was somewhat imperfect.

The Winter Term was taught by Miss A. P. HILLS. Miss H. is a good scholar, an excellent governess, and an earnest and laborious instructor. She controlled her school well, without harshness or severity. In submitting to just and reasonable regulations, her pupils were cheerful and happy, far more so than they could have been had they been allowed to violate those regulations with impunity. That is the happiest school, other things being equal, which is in subjection to the most perfect rules of order; and not only the happiest, but the most successful in prosecuting their studies. We cannot easily over-estimate the importance of holding a school in subjection to wise and judicious regulations. Miss H. proved herself an able and successful teacher. In penmanship this school is surpassed by none in town. The exercises at the closing examination were of an interesting character, evincing diligence in study and careful and practical instruction.

## DISTRICT NO. 9.

The Summer Term of this interesting school was under the instruction of Miss C. C. CHASE. Miss C. has taught this school three terms in succession, and it is believed with a very general, if not a universal, approbation of the district. The same general characteristics distinguished Miss C.'s school during each term—quietness, studiousness, and, as a legitimate result, progress. It will be sufficient to say that she sustained well the high reputation which she gained for herself during the two previous terms as a very superior disciplinarian, and a most earnest, faithful, laborious and successful teacher. The closing examination must have given entire satisfaction to all who witnessed it.

The Winter Term was taught by Miss M. H. STETSON. Miss S. had a fair field in which to employ her energies—a field which had been thoroughly cultivated for three successive terms at least. The soil was well prepared to yield a rich and bountiful harvest. Morally and intellectually Miss S. was well qualified to discharge the responsible duties incumbent upon her. What, then, were the results? Perhaps the Committee is not competent to say, as he was unavoidably absent at the examination. He has been credibly informed, however, that those present at the examination expressed their entire approbation of the school, both in regard to its government and proficiency in study. Though the Committee was not present at the examination, it was his privilege to visit the school on the day preceding; and from what he then saw and heard he formed a different judgment from that expressed by those present at the examination, and duty will not allow him to withhold the expression of it. The Committee most cheerfully concedes to Miss S. what she claims for herself—that she labored faithfully and arduously for the advancement of her school, and that she endeavored to maintain order. This is cordially conceded; nor would the Committee detract one tittle of credit or of honor due to her as a faithful, laborious, and, to a considerable extent, successful, teacher. But he would do great injustice to his own feelings and judgment should he concede to her the honor of having governed her school well. Such inattention to study, such feverish restlessness, such unnecessary noise, such bustle and disturbance in the hall at recess, and such rudeness on entering the school room as were exhibited in the presence of the Committee, are wholly incompatible with good government. Some explanation of the uneasiness and disturbance which occurred that afternoon has been attempted, but it cannot be accepted as satisfactory.

## DISTRICT NO. 10.

The Summer Term was taught by Miss G. Y. SENTER, a highly accomplished lady and of considerable experience as a teacher. This school is very small and affords but little opportunity for rivalry. A real interest in their studies, however, was very apparent. The school appeared to be in a willing and cheerful subjection to their teacher. The proficiency of the school in their studies was very fair and creditable. The recitations on the day of examination were very perfect. Very few questions were propounded but what were readily answered. One quite prominent fault in Miss Senter's instruction was the allowing beginners to read with an unnatural tone and pitch of voice. It was exceedingly painful to hear her little pupils read. A few words only would have corrected the evil.

The Winter Term was under the instruction of Miss E. I. SARGENT, of Nashua. Miss S. is a well qualified and acceptable teacher. Her school, when visited by the Committee, near its commencement, was in a prosperous condition, quiet, well regulated and studious, and had a fair prospect of a successful term. The Committee deeply regrets that it was not in his power to be present at the closing examination. A previous engagement to attend an examination at the south part of the town on the same afternoon rendered it impossible. But from what he saw of its propitious beginning he infers that it had a successful course and interesting termination.

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GENERAL REMARKS.

Your Committee has the satisfaction to report a general success attending our schools during the past year. With few exceptions our schools have been under the care and instruction of able, faithful and experienced teachers, who, by their earnest, self-denying efforts, have accomplished much. Their government has been kind and persuasive, yet, with few exceptions, firm, uniform and effective. It has been gratifying to witness the high regard and esteem which our children generally have shown toward their instructors, and the cheerfulness with which they have yielded to just and reasonable restraints. No cases of persistent stubbornness or of severe discipline have come to the knowledge of the Committee during the year. Nor has it been necessary to debar any scholar from school privileges a single day on account of misdemeanor.

The teachers, however, have not been without their trials and discouragements. Unnecessary evils have existed and retarded in no small degree the progress of their schools,



*Tardiness* has been a serious hinderance. No less than two hundred and seventy-three cases of tardiness occurred in a single school. Now, it does not require very great penetration to perceive that such remissness in duty is almost suicidal to the school's best interest. Nor does it require any great stretch of intellect to perceive on whom the responsibility rests. Let parents see that their children are at school in due time, and this great obstacle to advancement will be removed.

*Absenteeism* is another great evil. The two hundred and fourteen scholars whose names were registered as belonging to our Summer schools, lost, by absence, seventeen hundred and five days, or three hundred and ten weeks. The two hundred and fifty scholars connected with our Winter schools lost by absence two thousand two hundred and forty-four days, or four hundred and eight weeks. Total loss by absence during the year, three thousand nine hundred and forty-nine days, or seven hundred and eighteen weeks, or nearly fourteen years. And who, we may ask, must bear the responsibility for the loss of so much precious time? We are sharp and eagle-eyed to discern the mistakes and delinquencies of the instructors of our children, and often too ready to lend a listening-ear to remarks and surmises that our schools are not what they should be. And does not justice demand that we should turn our eyes to our own great mistakes and faults which have so damaging an influence on the great interests of our schools? To every reflecting mind it must be apparent that vastly more might have been accomplished in our schools if they had not been so much disturbed by tardiness and absence of so many pupils. The evil is not limited to the individual scholars who are tardy or absent, but the whole school feels the deleterious effect.

Some of our teachers have keenly felt the need of a more hearty and cheerful parental coöperation in their arduous work. The largest school in town was not visited by a single parent during the Winter term until the day of examination. One other school was visited only by a single parent during the term. Parents and fellow-citizens! can our schools accomplish, where such parental indifference prevails, as much as they would accomplish with a warm, affectionate parental coöperation? Your Committee need not waste words in answering this question. Your own judgment will give the true response.

Your Committee, in closing his labors, takes pleasure in bearing witness to the uniform courtesy with which he has been received by the teachers on visiting the schools of his charge; and also to the respect and politeness shown him by the pupils, both in the school room and out of it. And, notwithstanding his deep consciousness of many and great deficiencies, he will ever cherish many pleasing associations connected with the discharge of his duties as Superintending School Committee.

BENJAMIN HOWE.





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